Embracing LGBTQ+ Identities in Hinduism: A Path towards Inclusive Humanity.

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"When we're free to love anyone we choose, When this world's big enough for all different views, When we all can worship from our own kind of pew, Then we shall be free."

—Garth Brooks

Acceptance of the fact that for falling in love, it is not necessary that a boy should love a girl and a girl should love a boy. "Love is Love."

A girl can fall in love with a girl and a boy can fall in love with a boy. Since the beginning, it’s been said that we Indians are very influenced by western culture. But, did you know? That legalizing gay marriages in India was not influenced by western culture but actually by Indian culture itself.Ironically, Britishers had planted this in the minds of people that homosexuality is a crime.

Before their reign, in India, the LGBTQ community was widely accepted and respected that in Ancient India how the LGBTQ community was very much a part of society. ISKCON community's author whose name was **Amara Das**. He conducted research on Sanskrit text and wrote a book named '*Tritiya Prakriti'*. In this book, he has actually mentioned that in Ancient
Indian society, there was a lot of participation of homosexuals, transgenders, and intersex communities.

In fact, in this book it is also written that the people of Ancient Indian society could marry people of the same sex. If you do read this book carefully, you will realize that it talks a lot about all inclusiveness and How can we embrace this in our modern society? After reading all this, I can surely say that there are a lot of differences between today's society and our old Hindu society.

Kamasutra Which is an ancient Hindu Sanskrit text of the 2nd century. In this, it has been mentioned that gays were called 'klibas' and lesbians were called 'swarinis' which means that same-sex marriages
were readily accepted in society. It has also been mentioned that two people of the same sex can raise a child together.

Kamasutra also mentions that being a part of the LGBTQ community is absolutely natural because they're just being themselves.

Ramayana and Mahabharata which are one of the two biggest Epics of India. In these, there are a lot of mentions of homosexuality…

Ramayanam, then there are many versions.It has been mentioned that king Dilip had two wives, but unfortunately, King Dilip died before he could have an
heir. After that, Lord Shiva gave a blessing to both the queens that they can have a child without a man by copulating. Both the wives fulfilled the blessing. And their name rightly reflects this blessing. This comes from two 'bhagas' which means female organs. The kid was named **Bhagirath** because he came from two female organs mixing together.

Mahabharata, Shikhandi, who had defeated Bhishma Pitama, he used to be a transgender warrior and was actually the daughter of King Drupada. It is believed that he was the rebirth of Amba Mata and he wanted revenge against Bhishma Pitama. Shikhandi was also married to a
woman. But when his wife got to know that he is transgender, she insulted him a lot which led to Shikhandi fleeting away.

Arjuna, who is everyone's favorite character and role model he was too of a third gender. In one version of Mahabharata, it has been mentioned that when Arjuna rejected Urvashi, then Urvashi gave him a curse that he will become a third gender. After that, Lord Indra confined this curse to one
year. But in this one year, Arjuna took the form of Brihannala, and stayed in the women's sector with Draupadi.

But in Indian temples, even today, there are sculptures that depict the acceptance of same-sex relationships. Mainly, the temples that were made in Khajuraho, in these temples, there are sculptures that depict same-sex relationships. In these sculptures, there are many characters who are shown performing homosexual acts. This temple was actually made from 950 AD to 1050 AD.

Homosexual poems …

Christianity and homosexual…